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(54) **Short voice message (SVM) service method, apparatus and system**

(57) Tiresome entry of numerous letters of the alphabet into a hand-held device for assembling a short text message for transmission via a short message service (SMS) to a second terminal is avoided by the sending of a short voice message (SVM). The SVM is recorded in the sending terminal and sent to a SVM service center (SVMSC). The SVMSC may notify the intended recipient of the arrival of the SVM and await acceptance before sending it, or send it immediately if the presence of

the intended recipient is detected. The second terminal may then commence a bidirectional communication so that an instant voice message session can be established. Alternatively, the problem can be overcome by converting the spoken SVM to text in the user terminal by means of voice recognition software and sending the converted text to the recipient by means of the traditional SMS infrastructure for display as text or for playback as text converted to voice.

Sending Short Voice Message - Usage

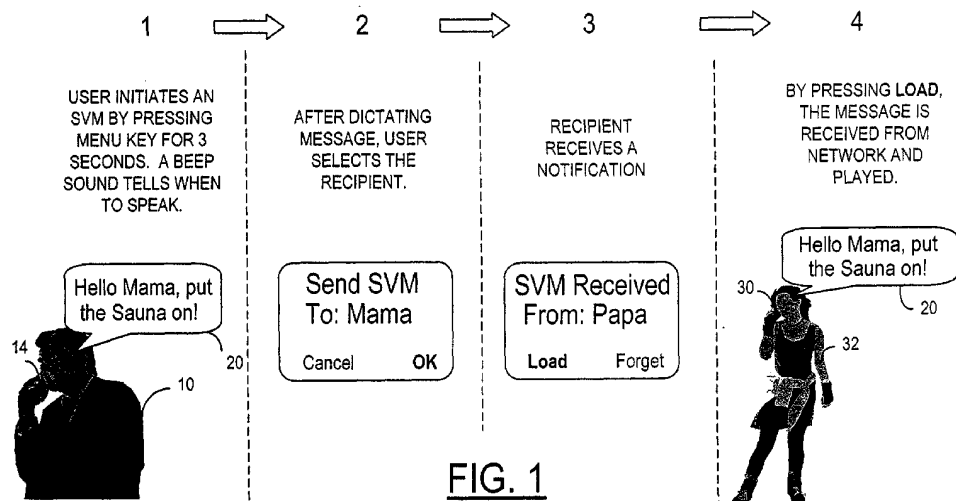


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 00 7645

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	"Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS);Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), Functional description; Stage 2 (3GPP TS 23.140 version 4.2.0 Release 4)" ETSI TS 123 140 V4.2.0, XX, XX, March 2001 (2001-03), XP002180514	1-16	H04Q7/38 H04Q7/22
Y	* page 11, paragraph 4.1 - page 12, paragraph 4.2 * * page 14, paragraph 5.1 - page 16, paragraph 5.4 * * page 18, paragraph 6.1.2 - page 19, paragraph 6.1.3 * * page 28, paragraph 7.2 - page 29, paragraph 7.8 * * page 39, paragraph 8.15 * * figures 1,2,4-6 *	17-22	
X	US 5 724 410 A (PARVULESCU ADRIAN ET AL) 3 March 1998 (1998-03-03)	23-27	
Y	* abstract * * figures 1-7 * * column 1, line 27 - line 31 * * column 2, line 10 - line 48 * * column 3, line 43 - line 54 * * column 4, line 8 - line 47 * * column 6, line 25 - line 41 * * claims 1-3,8,9,15,16,28 *	17-22	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H04M H04Q
P,X	EP 1 185 068 A (COMVERSE NETWORK SYSTEMS LTD) 6 March 2002 (2002-03-06) * abstract * * figures 1-3 * * column 1, line 5 - line 10 * * column 2, line 6 - line 16 * * column 2, line 41 - column 3, line 7 * * column 3, line 37 - column 4, line 34 * * column 5, line 16 - column 6, line 49 * * column 7, line 26 - line 30 *	1-16	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 22 January 2003	Examiner Matt, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 00 7645

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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22-01-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82